

## CATAMOUNT FOR PET.

Leaps from Chairs to Piano and Back Again and Otherwise Behaves Itself Quite Decently.

Miss Jessie Van Nest, of Tiffin, O., is the owner of a pet, which, if loose in its native haunts, Indian territory, would be hunted by the inhabitants as a wild and savage animal. In Tiffin it playfully leaps from the parlor chairs to the piano and back again. At some of the recent cat shows this cat has been making a great hit. Its growl frequently creates no little awe, if not excitement, among the attendants.

This remarkable pet is known among the Cherokee nation as a catamount, but Miss Van Nest says that



CHERRY LIKES ATTENTION.

"Spotted lynx" is the correct name. It was captured on Bushy mountain, Cherokee nation, Indian territory, by an Indian and a United States land appraiser. The land appraiser is Miss Van Nest's father. The nest of the mother cat was located by the Indian. The captors watched their opportunity, and when the mother cat was away after food they removed the kittens from their home at the age of about four days. One of these kittens died, another was accidentally killed, and Cherry, as she is called, alone survived.

Cherry has the freedom of the Van Nest home, and one of the peculiar traits of the animal is its love for children, which it expresses by jumping over their heads whenever they are around. It appreciates attention and likes to be petted. In summer Cherry sleeps in trees, and in winter never lies on the floor, but selects the top of some high piece of furniture for a resting place.

Cherry used to amuse herself last autumn by concealing all of her body excepting the head in a convenient pile of leaves and catching sparrows that might light in her path. She used also to have it in for the dogs of the neighborhood, but now has made friends with most of them. The animal is fed on cooked beef, chicken or birds. She will not eat fat and prefers water to milk.

## A COURTEOUS FARMER.

Relinquished His Right to the Phone Because His Business Was Not Very Important.

"I was out in a town in the interior of the state," said a Chicago business man to a Cincinnati reporter the other day, "and, desiring to telephone, I stepped into the headquarters. There was a farmer just



"YES, BUT I'LL WAIVE IT."

ahead of me, and he turned to me and said:

"If you wish to use the wire first, go ahead."

"But you have the privilege," I replied.

"Yes, but I'll waive it." "I only wish to talk with Chicago, while your message may be one of life or death."

"Oh, it's not so bad as that," he replied, with a grim smile. "My wife eloped with a windmill man last night, but you go right ahead with your talk. I was simply going to notify the constables along the line to let her slide right along."

## Here's a Snake Story.

In the zoological gardens at Nimes, France, a tessellated snake, measuring about 38 inches, recently devoured within a week a black-marked snake only three-quarters of an inch less in length than itself and a viperine snake of 17 inches. The former could not have been in exactly prime condition, for it had not, at the time of its death, touched food for 393 days. One of the viperine snakes in the Nimes collection, though not the one in question, had previously fasted for 464 days.

## Wonder If This Is True?

The children of parents who are both red-haired become gray at an early age.

## OLD LOVE LETTERS.

They Should Be Carefully Preserved for Future Reference.

How a Smart Washington Woman Used Moth-Eaten Epistles to Secure a Lovely New Jacket for Easter Day.

They were about to change boarding houses, and the young matron, while packing, fell to rummaging among a lot of old letters in the bottom of one of her trunks. She came upon a bundle of his letters, written before they were married, five years ago. He was sitting in the room, trying to read his evening paper.

"Um," she said, reflectively, spreading out and holding up one of the letters. "There's no use in talking, Jack, you could write the loveliest letters! Do you remember how you used to write three of them a day to me, most of them special delivery, not to mention frequent telegrams?"

"Rot!" said he, looking up from his paper in alarm, nevertheless.

"Now, listen to this," she went on, turning a page of one of the letters to the light: "Dearest, did you know that your eyes are of the hue of a mountain lake in autumn?"—now, wasn't that a funny way to allude to a girl's eyes! What is the color of a mountain lake in autumn, anyhow, Jack?

"And we shall go hand in hand adown the asphodel meadows of life," she continued, turning the page over and regarding him out of the slants of her eyes. "I always wondered what you meant by that, Jack. I don't remember ever having seen an asphodel meadow, and I never heard of one except in the poetry of Rosetti. Is that where you got the asphodel meadows, Jackie?"

"Humbly!" said he, crossing his legs in a rattled sort of way.

"What was the name of that Tosti song you sang last night?—it has been



"WHAT'LL YOU TAKE FOR 'EM?"

running through my head all morning like the hum of harps, so that I've scarcely been able to do my work—and you sang it as Sapho might have sung, brooding dreamily over the wine-dark Ionian sea!—mercy on us, Jack, but how eloquent you used to get, and so delightfully classical in your allusions, too!"

"Bosh!" he snorted, ineffectually attempting to read his paper upside down.

"Now, dearest, don't you ever make the mistake of dreaming that I shan't be able to get on famously with your dear mother, for I shall. She may be a little set in her ways, but it shall be my aim and my pleasure to be uniformly gentle toward her, as a son-in-law should," she continued, with a rollicking little laugh at the close of the quotation. "Humph! And poor mamma hadn't been in the house three hours on the occasion of her first visit to us before you were—er—well, just scrapping like everything!"

"My dear, can't you see that I'm making a frantic effort to read my newspaper?"

She was silent for a space, chuckling at intervals as she went over more of the letters, and then she began again: "And I want to have it distinctly understood before we are married that you are to have the handling of all the money—that's the only way a fellow ever manages to save anything," she resumed, taking up still another letter.

He jumped up, threw down his paper, jammed his hands into his trousers pockets and scowled.

"Look a-here, my dear," he exclaimed, "why do you keep such driving truck as that about you for, anyway?"

"Why, Jack, they are your letters!" she said, surprised, and clutching them tightly.

A bright idea seemed to strike him.

"What'll you take for 'em?" he inquired of her.

She bit her lip and reflected.

"Well, I do hate to part with them, honest, Jack," said she, "but I saw a lovely spring jacket down-town today for only \$28, and—"

"The jacket's yours—you can get it to-morrow—now gimme those letters," said he, reaching out for them. She handed them over, and he promptly chucked them into the open grate fire.

And he is fondly imagining at the present moment that she gave him all of those incriminating letters, as it were, but, says the Washington Star, she didn't. She held out about 40 of them, and if she doesn't use them to "swing" him for a sealskin by the time the cold weather comes around again it will be a caution.

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## Sympathy Between Twins.

Twin brothers living in Anderson county, Kentucky, are said by the Harrodsburg Democrat to have married sisters, and to each have been born three children of the same sex, with the same birthdays. One felt a shock in his foot and said the other, who was ten miles away, had been hurt. In the evening the absent brother turned up with three mashed toes. The twins weigh the same to an ounce.

## Treasures of the Aztecs.

Explorers in the neighborhood of Chama, Guatemala, have discovered treasures during their excavations in search of mines. Coins and jewels, decorating corpses buried centuries ago by the Aztecs and Montezumas, have been found. So far the valuables have amounted to over \$50,000. Workmen on the Chama plantations are wild, and have abandoned their usual work to hunt for buried treasures.

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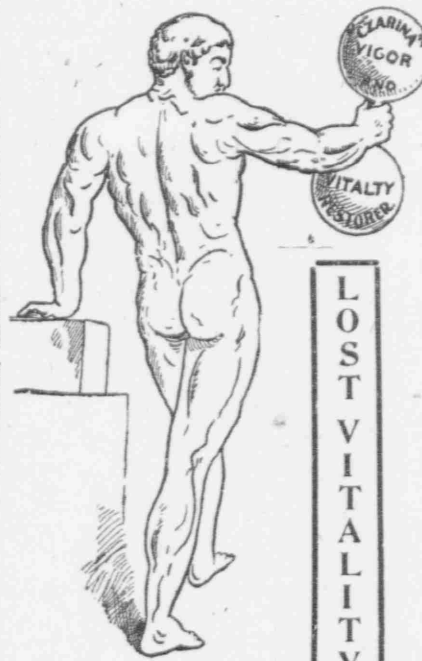
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